

Crop Monitoring in Europe

MARS BULLETIN Vol.20 No. 1 (2012)

Agro-meteorological overview and weather forecast

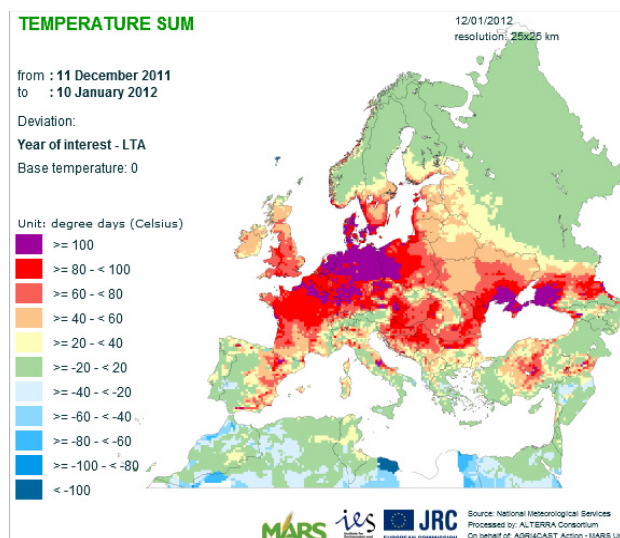
There were milder than usual thermal conditions over most of Europe, providing favourable conditions for the development and wintering of all winter crops. Frost events were less frequent than usual. Precipitation exceeded the average by far in the western part of Europe and in the Aegean region. It was seasonal in eastern Europe, but significantly below the norm in Spain, Portugal and Morocco. The analysis of winter kill indices indicates no or little damage so far.

The coming days are forecast to be mild in central Europe and Russia. Precipitation will be concentrated over Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and countries around the Baltic. High amounts of rainfall are forecast for Morocco, but Portugal will remain dry.

Observed temperatures

The mean temperature over the period considered was +2 to +4°C warmer than on average in South Scandinavia and over a wide belt from Britain to France, Germany, Poland, Romania and as far as south Russia. In the Baltic countries, Belarus and Ukraine, the winter was milder than usual by +4 to +6°C, while in Finland and areas around the White Sea temperatures anomaly exceeded +8°C. Thermal conditions were seasonable in the Mediterranean basin. The sum of active temperatures for the period considered were mostly higher than average by +40 – +100 degree days in a great triangle-shaped region between eastern Spain, southern Sweden and the Caucasus mountains. In spite of the mild weather conditions, only some Atlantic and Mediterranean coastal areas remained frost-free, but there were five fewer cold days ($T_{min} < 0^{\circ}\text{C}$) than usual in the centre of the continent. The average daily minimum temperatures were at least +3 °C warmer than the long-term average for many areas north of the Mediterranean. Harsh winter frosts ($T_{min} < -10^{\circ}\text{C}$) were concentrated in Scandinavia, eastern Turkey and further eastward in Russia. Despite mild weather, the daily maximum temperatures remained below

+10°C in the eastern half of Europe, preventing winter cereals from dehardening.



Observed precipitation

Precipitation was frequent and abundant in Scandinavia, the British Isles, France, the Benelux countries, Germany, most of the Balkan peninsula, the western half of Turkey as well as some areas in central Ukraine and western Russia. These regions experienced characteristically +50 to +100% more precipitation than usual. Scarce or no rainfall was recorded in the Iberian peninsula and Morocco. In particular, areas along the Atlantic shore were dry, where

the precipitation shortage exceeded 50-100 mm compared with the LTA. The cumulative water balance since October 2011 indicates low refill of water reservoirs in Spain, possibly leading to irrigation water supply problems in the next cropping season if the dry weather continues. A broad strip from Lithuania to Romania and the eastern basin of the Black Sea also saw below-average precipitation.

2012 MARS Bulletins

Date	Publication	Reference
13 Jan	Agromet. analysis	Vol. 20 No. 1
10 Feb	Agromet. analysis	Vol. 20 No. 2
26 Mar	Agromet. analysis and yield forecast	Vol. 20 No. 3
23 Apr	Agromet. analysis, remote sensing analysis, and yield forecast	Vol. 20 No. 4
29 May	Agromet. analysis, remote sensing analysis, and yield forecast, pasture analysis	Vol. 20 No. 5
25 Jun	Agromet. analysis, remote sensing analysis, and yield forecast, pasture update	Vol. 20 No. 6
23 Jul	Agromet. analysis, remote sensing analysis, and yield forecast, pasture update, rice analysis	Vol. 20 No. 7
27 Aug	Agromet. analysis and yield forecast, pasture update	Vol. 20 No. 8
24 Sep	Agromet. analysis, remote sensing analysis and yield forecast, pasture update	Vol. 20 No. 9
22 Oct	Agromet. analysis, remote sensing analysis and yield forecast, pasture analysis, rice analysis	Vol. 20 No. 10
26 Nov	Agromet. analysis, campaign review and yield forecast	Vol. 20 No. 11
17 Dec	Agromet. analysis	Vol. 20 No. 12

A great deal of additional information on the European Union is available on the Internet. It can be accessed through the Europa server <http://europa.eu>.

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Analysis and reports

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